

**MARVEL**  
**ISSUE**  
**26**  
**EXC**  
**RESO**  
**URCE**  
**NATURAL**

WOOD • ASRAR • VLASCO • BELLAIRE

**ULTIMATE COMICS™**

**X-MEN®**



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DIRECT EDITION  
MARVEL.COM



**BONUS**  
**DIGITAL**  
**EDITION**  
SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

LIVING IN A WORLD  
WHERE MUTANTS ARE  
HATED AND FEARED MORE  
THAN EVER, ONE GROUP  
OF YOUNG HEROES HAS  
BANDED TOGETHER TO  
FIGHT BACK.

ULTIMATE COMICS

X-MEN



## PREVIOUSLY:

Kitty Pryde needs friends. And fast...

Washington has pushed the "Protect American Ideas & Property Act" through Congress, designed for the government to profit from mutant innovations such as the sentient seed. The divided camps in Utopia are losing the little faith they had left in humanity. And tensions are peaking on the ground.

Back in Utopia, Jean Grey has camouflaged herself as an Utopia refugee, waiting to make her move against Kitty. Meanwhile, Jimmy Hudson is still figuring out whether he's Utopia's soldier or Kitty's double agent. And 80 miles from camp, U.S. Army General Ross waits for orders to silence the embarrassment that Utopia has become to the United States...

If both humans and mutants are waiting for Utopia to fall, when will Jean enlighten Kitty and her camp about the promise of Tian? Whose side will Jimmy be standing by? And will General Ross and his soldiers stop Kitty's tour de force prematurely?

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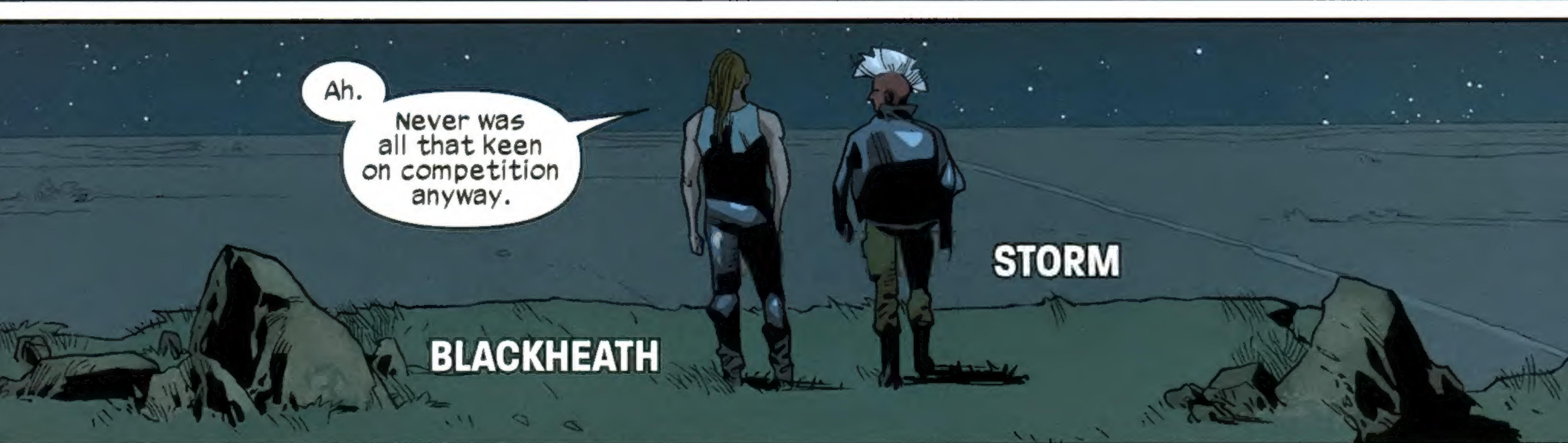
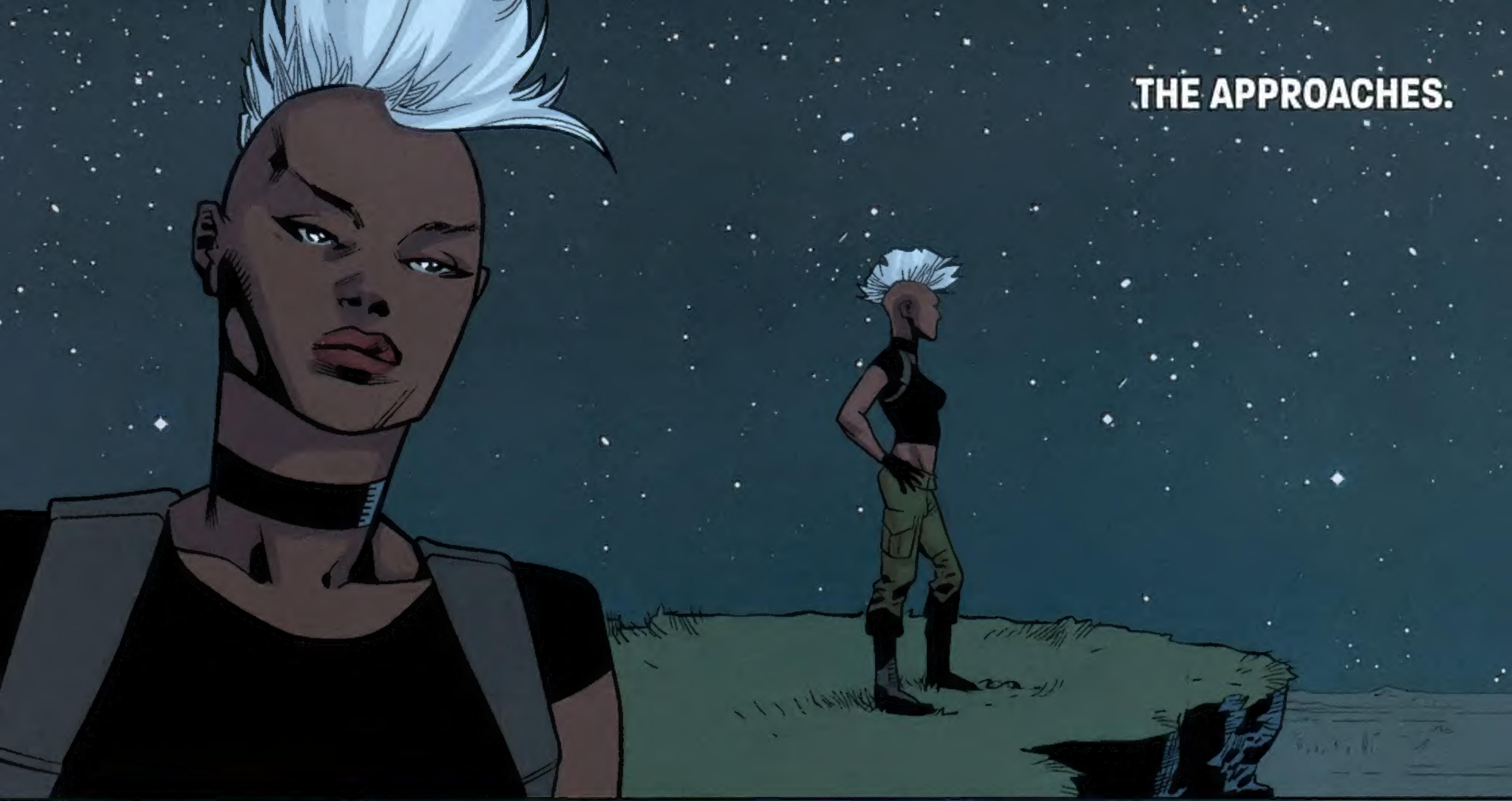
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UTOPIA.





THE APPROACHES.



Careful.  
That's a long  
drop.

This rock  
is extrusive  
igneous basalt.  
High amounts  
of iron...

ELSEWHERE.

MACH TWO

...real sticky  
stuff for someone  
like me. I'm not  
going anywhere.

WARPATH

I haven't eaten in  
two days, Nomi.  
Not real food,  
anyway.

How long  
can we stay  
out here?

Have you  
seen the village  
recently? Utopia's  
got greenhouses  
full of food. They're  
winning.

Listen, I  
agree with you,  
humans **should** be  
punished for what  
they've done to us.  
I'm **pro-retaliation**.  
I'll go all freedom  
fighter on them  
in a **second**...

Until  
we win.

...I just hope  
we get the chance,  
before we die out  
here from eating tree  
bark and those weird  
green berries.

We'll  
get the  
chance...

"...The humans will never be able to leave us in peace."



# **NATURAL RESOURCES PART THREE**

**WOOD ASRAR**

**VLASCO BELLAIRE**

We have comms up. Countermeasures coming online now. Drones nearly in position to provide us full visual surveillance over the whole reservation.

But...these are mutants, General Ross...



If they want a way around our systems, they'll probably find one.

Kitty Pryde's been shown again and again that the power of the media moves her cause forward. I'm going to deny her that.

We're restricting the airspace, scrambling satellite coverage and cell communications...

...road-blocking this whole area fifty miles out...

...we can't afford any witnesses.

Or martyrs.

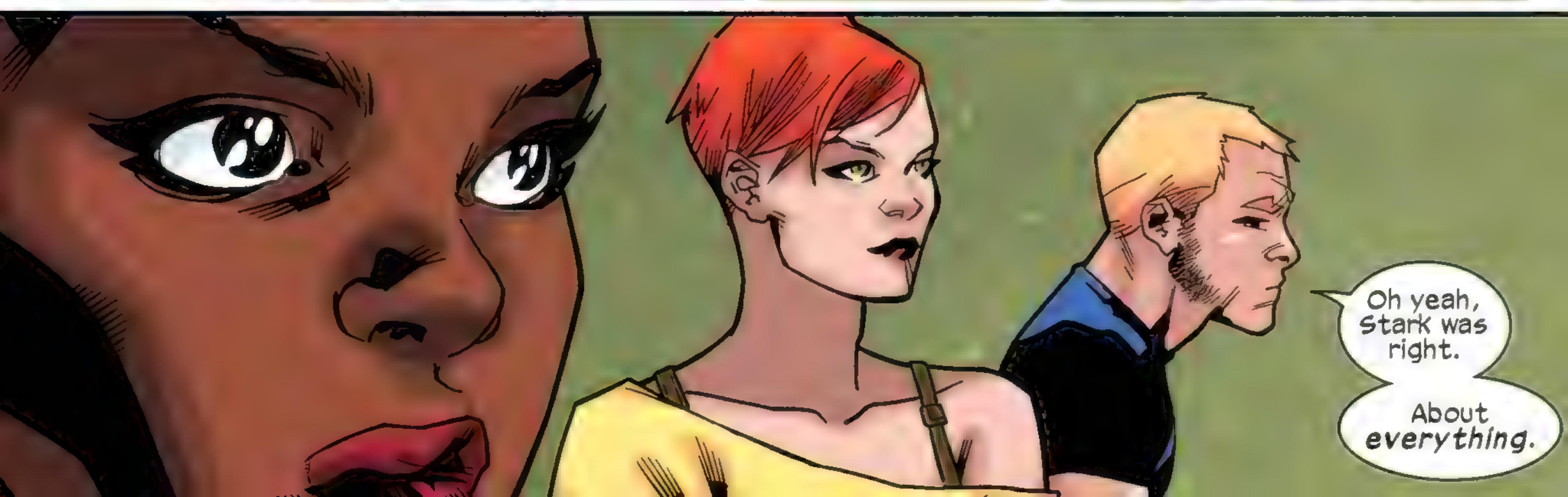
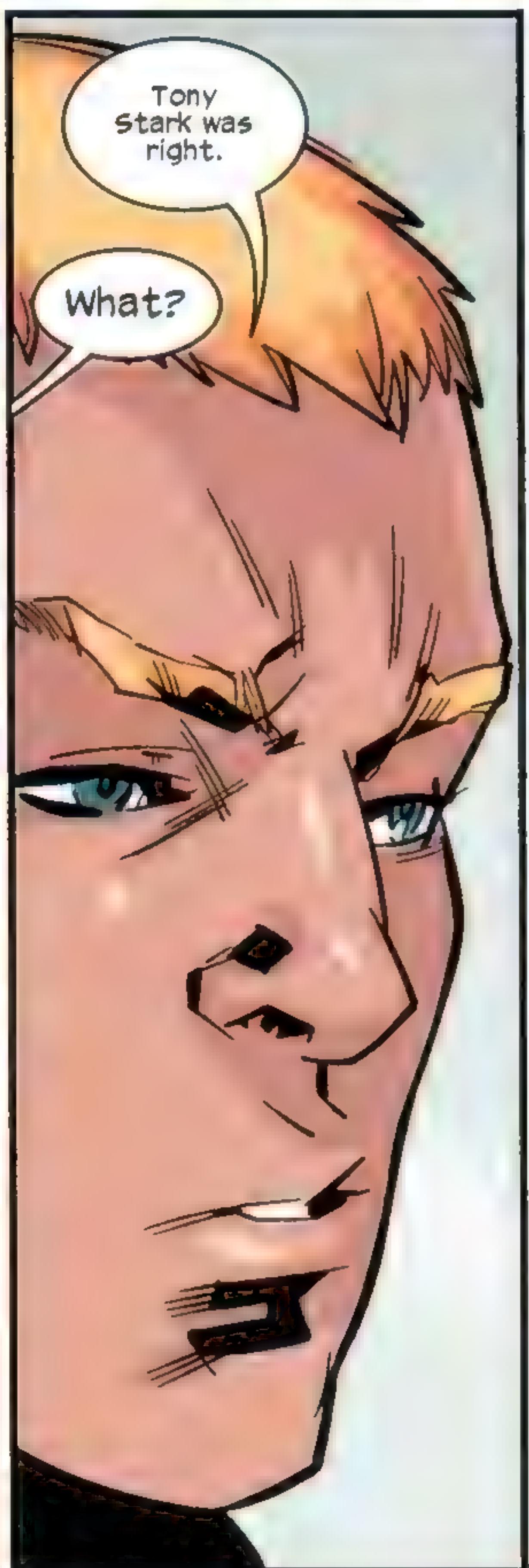
I am in charge, General.

And I have orders from the President: this isn't going to be a bloodbath.

Point taken, but tell that to the kid up there with the razor claws. I aim to be prepared.

Sir!

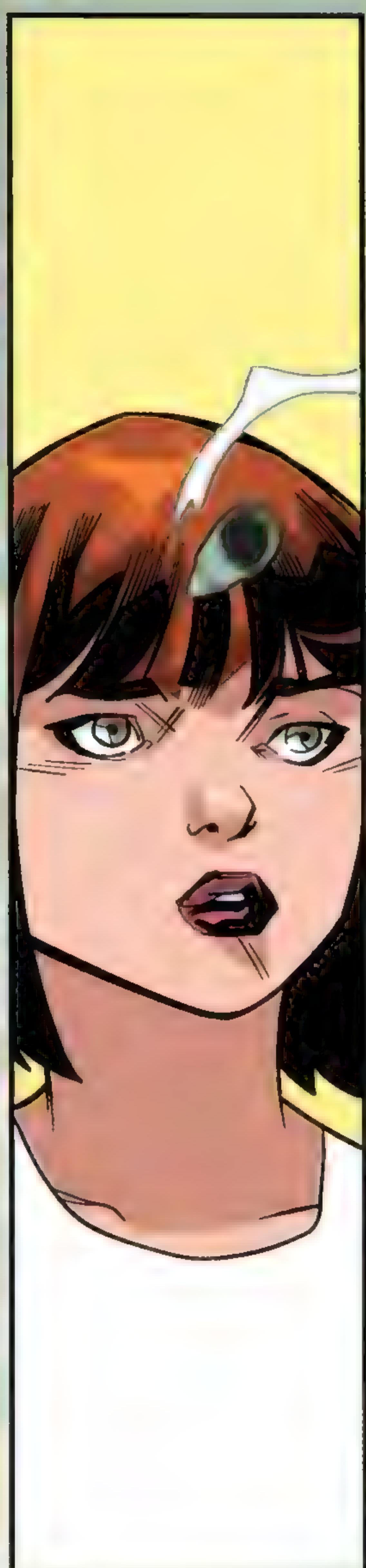






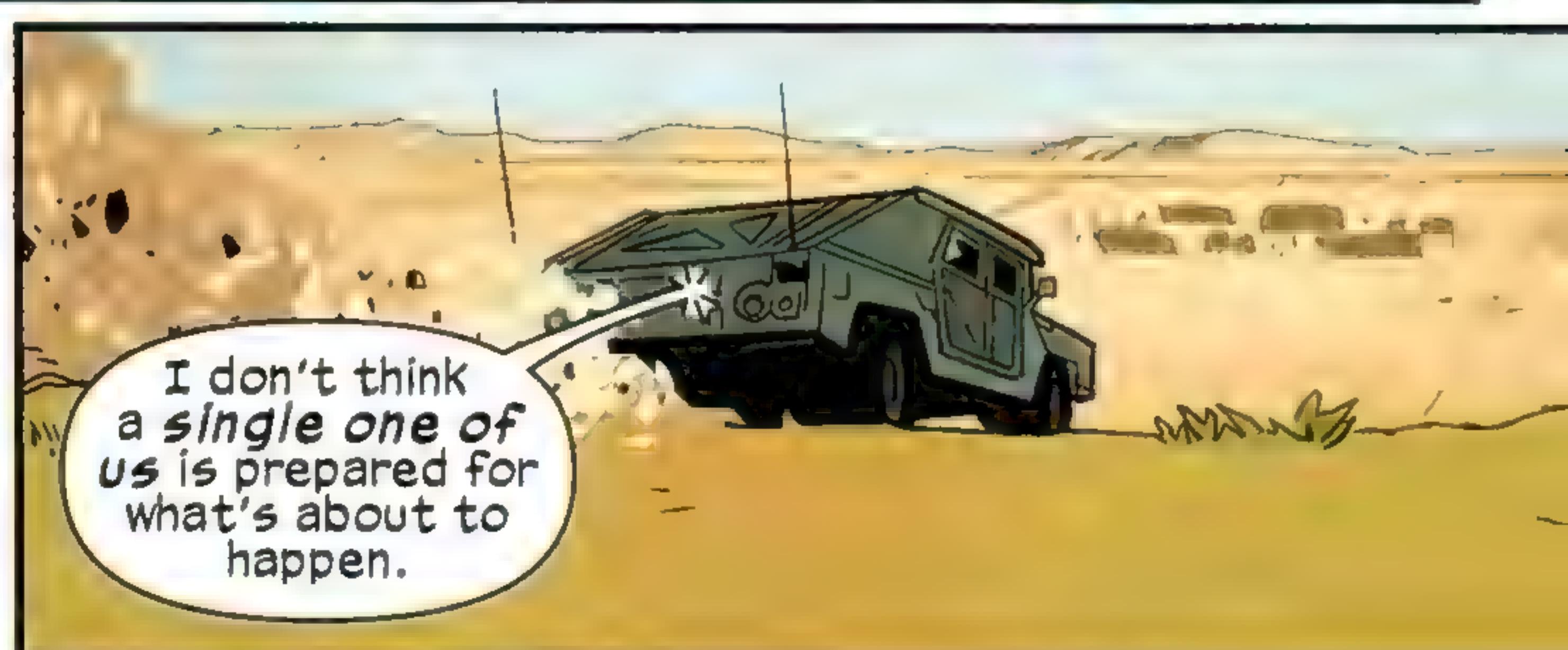
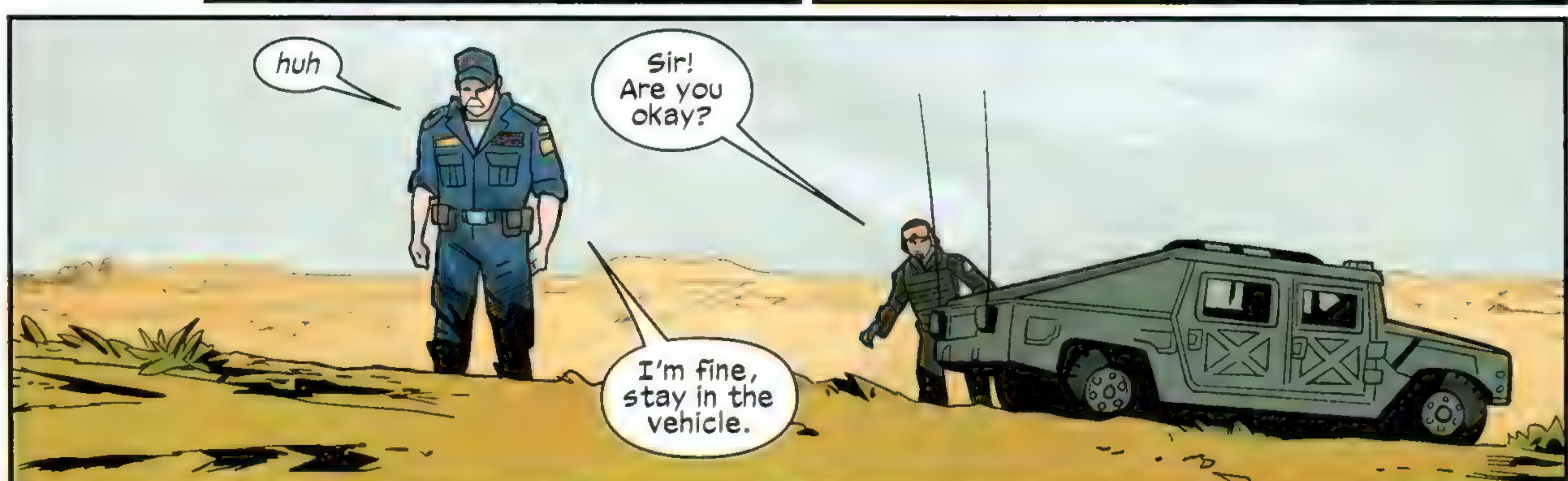






KRAKKKK





THE VILLAGE.





**HOURS LATER.**

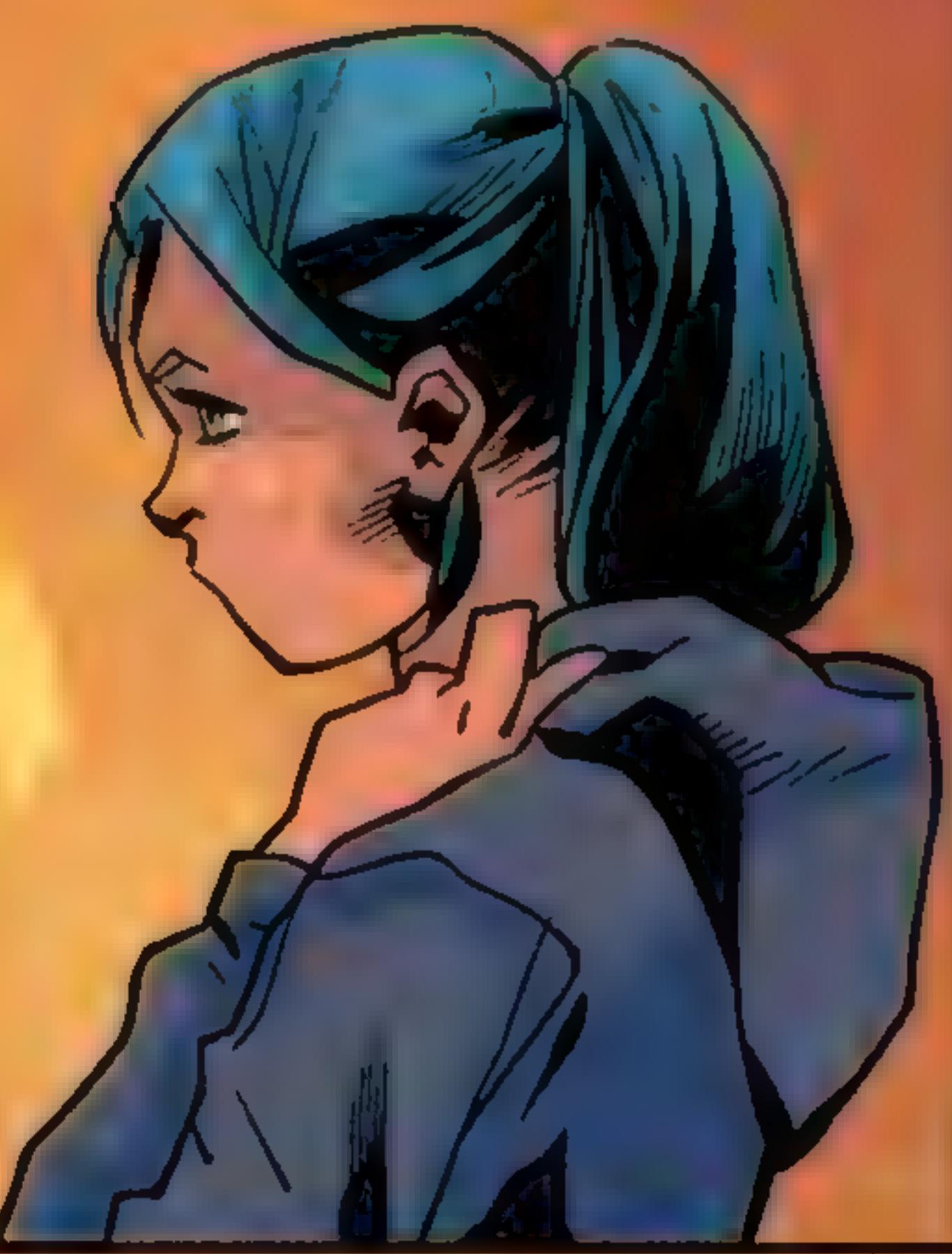
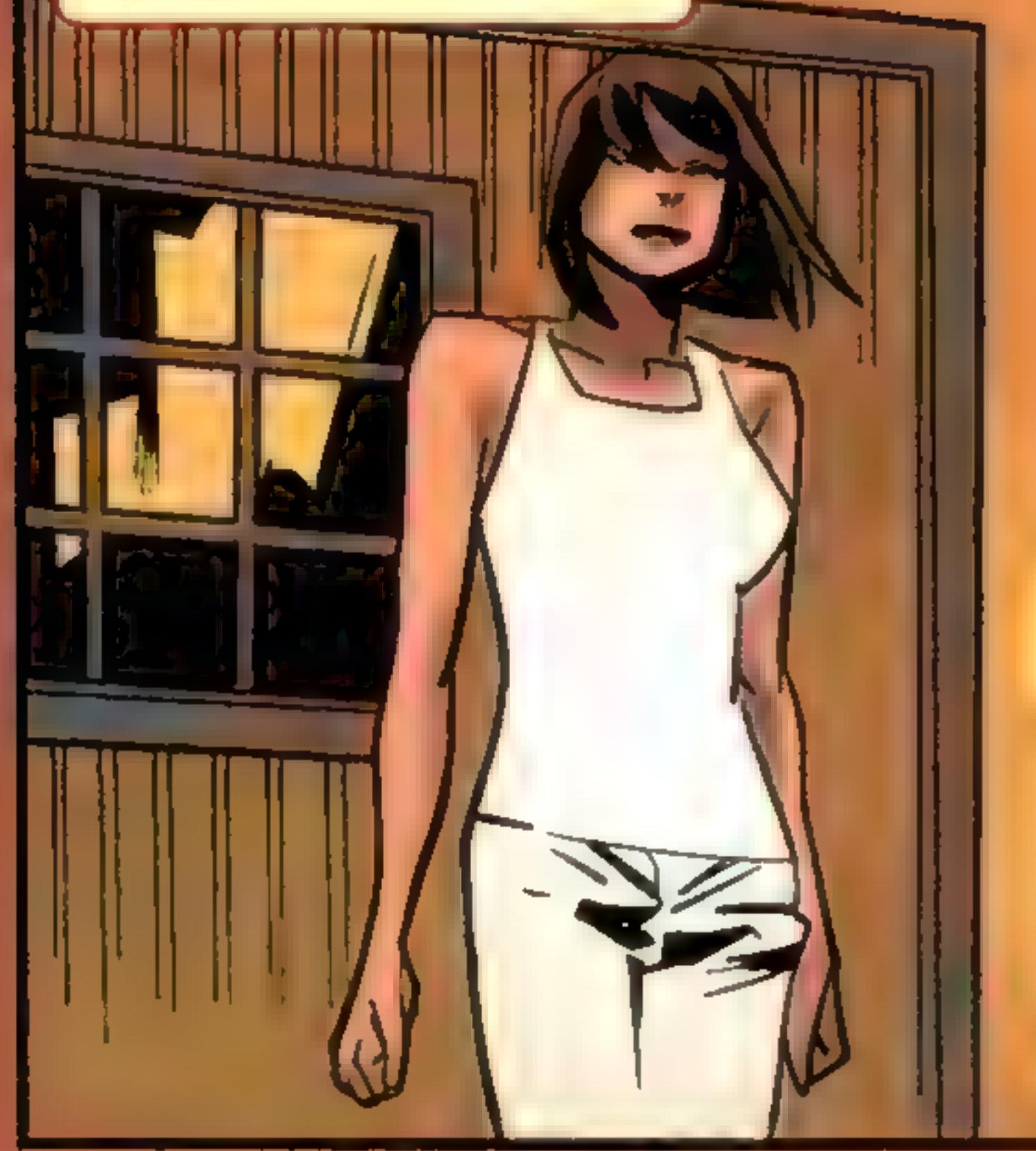
The others, the outcasts, they returned at dusk. You could have heard a pin drop.

I wasn't here, obviously, in those early days of Utopia, and I don't have a sense of the rift, why it happened and what it actually meant.

But how bad could it have been? Mach Two is so young, and she obviously is fixated on Kitty.



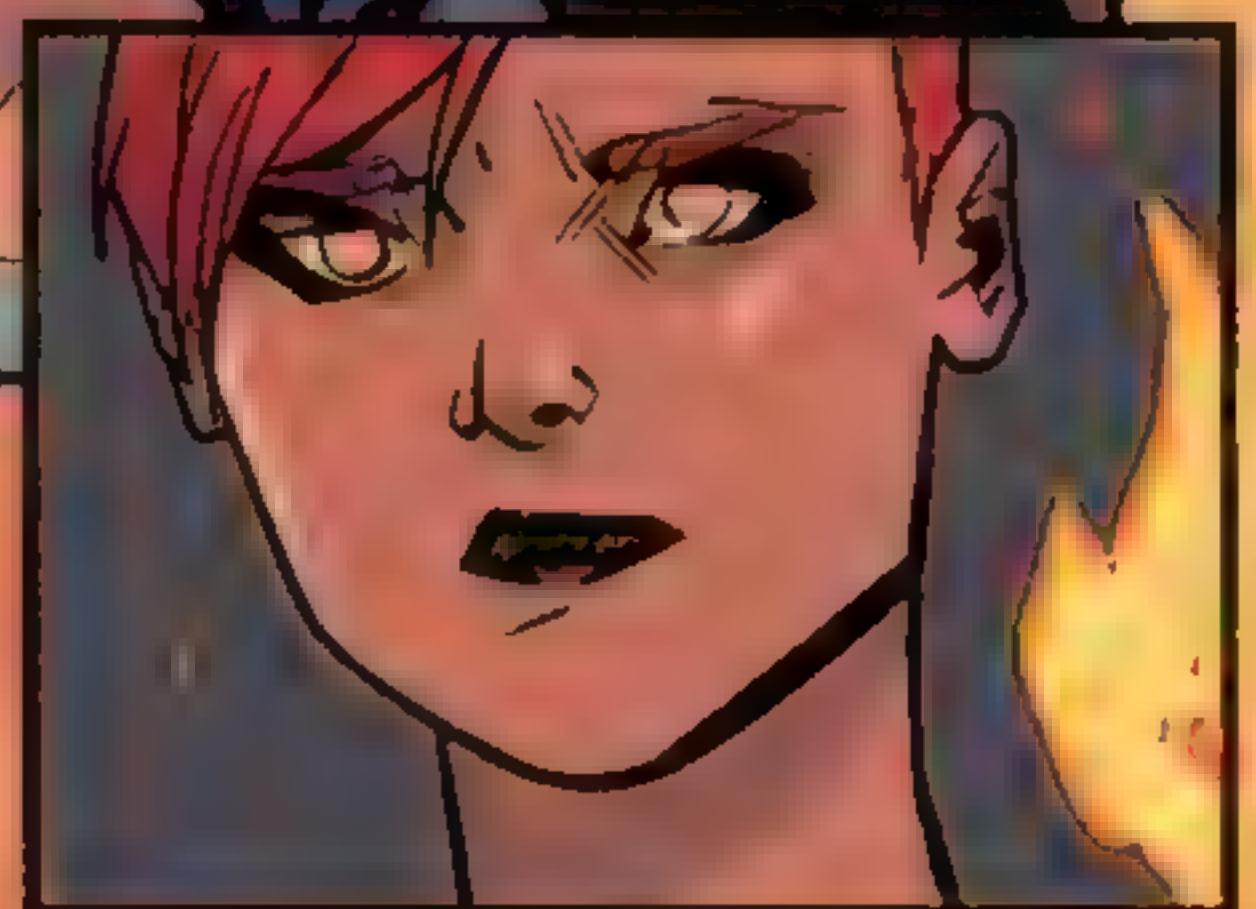
Is something else at work here?



Or someone?



Is this the salvation of Utopia or its death knell?



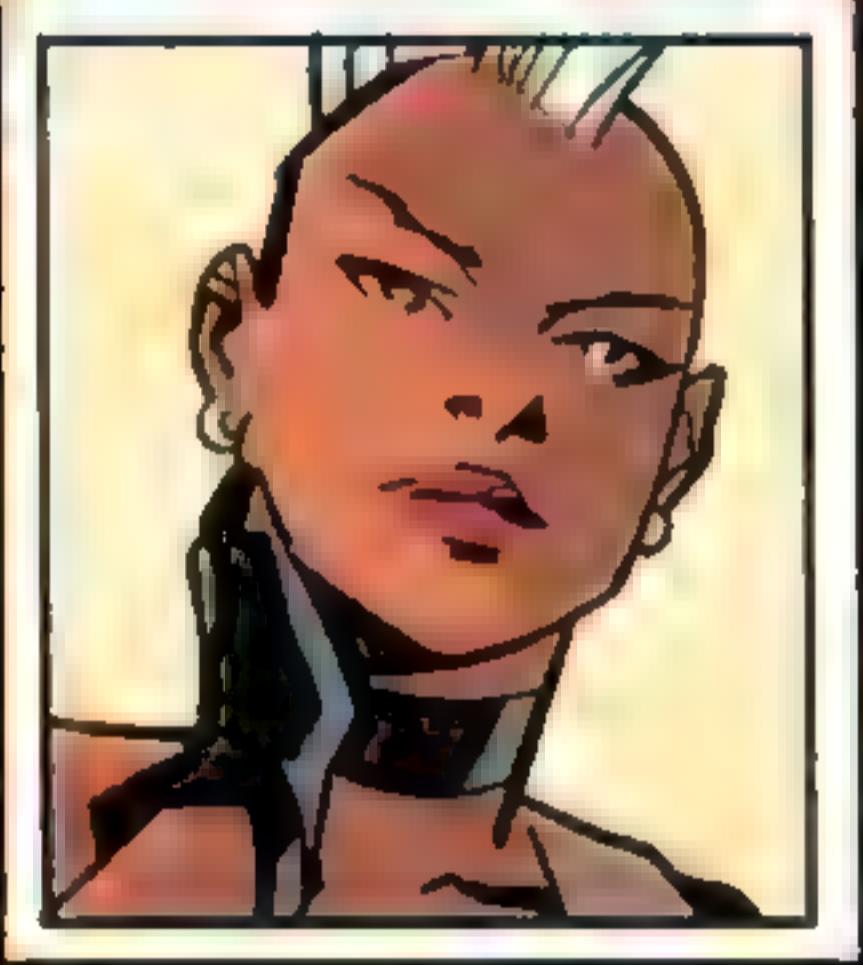
I don't think negotiation is a viable option, but Utopia is peaceful in intent and I will make the effort.

Utopia is well defended. Magma and Storm and Blackheath and Zero and so many others turned this dead patch of desert into a living fortress.

But we will not attack. We are perfectly positioned to defend, to ride out this siege and maintain our nonviolent stance.

General Ross has no orders to kill us; we are to be taken alive. As long as that's the situation, we cannot lose.

They're coming at us again. To all of us, this is nothing new.

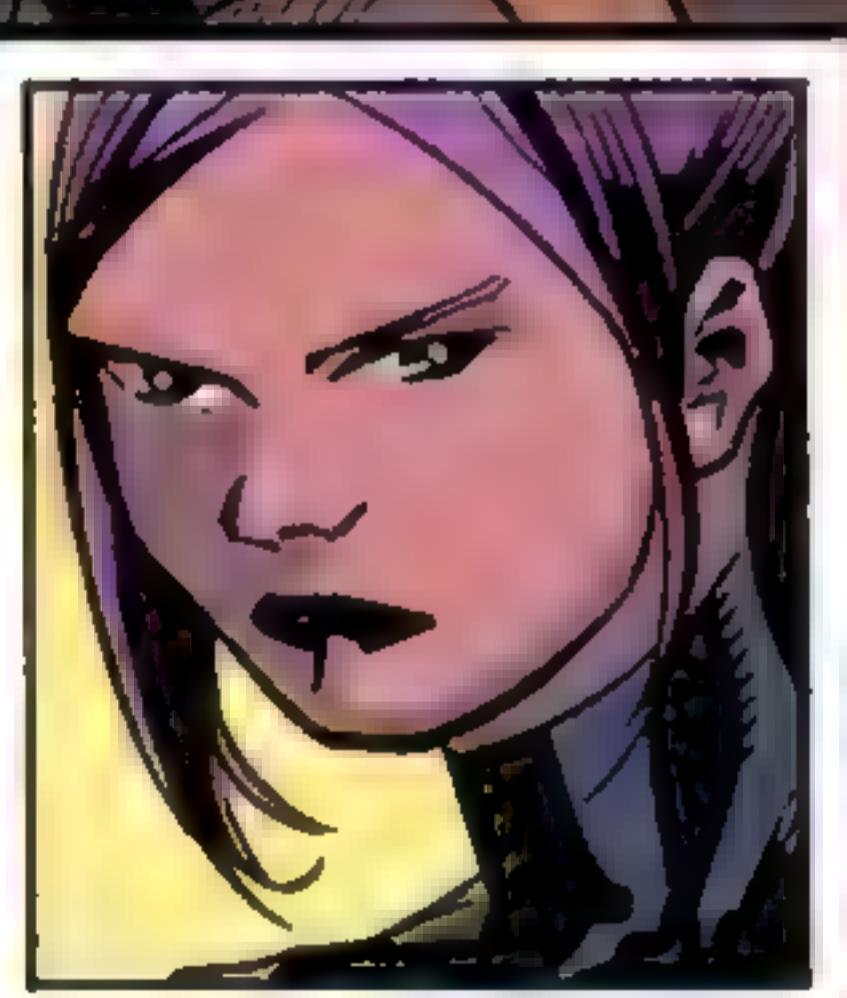
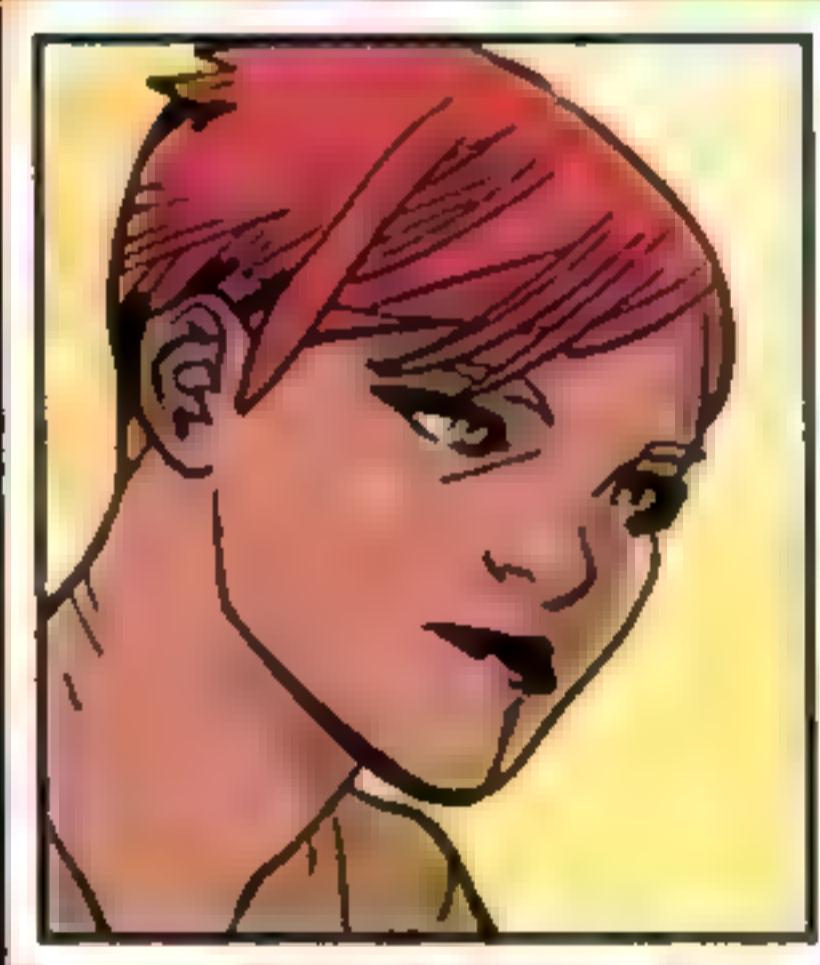


What will be new is how it ends: no mutants need to die, and no humans should either. We need to show them that we are simultaneously not a threat...

...but that we are to be respected, to be afforded basic rights...of speech, of property and privacy, of religion and philosophy, and of self-determination.

To be left in peace. This is what we were promised.

And this reason, and only this reason, is why we will meet aggression with resistance.



Right...

...we need to lock down a few basic things, now, well before the deadline.

We need to store water and food. We need to move essentials deeper into the forest, **away** from the village buildings...

Perimeter watch: I'll need volunteers to maintain constant eyes on the enemy...

But he's being sensible, he's not contradicting anything you said.

But--  
Kitty.

Your people are clearly behind you.

They just want to help carry your burden a bit. Let them.

Are you behind me?

It wasn't until that moment...

...that I realized the future of Tian was *linked* to the future of Utopia. Or rather, its people.

Kitty needs this victory to cement her leadership and the independence of mutants in America.

I am, Kitty. One hundred percent.



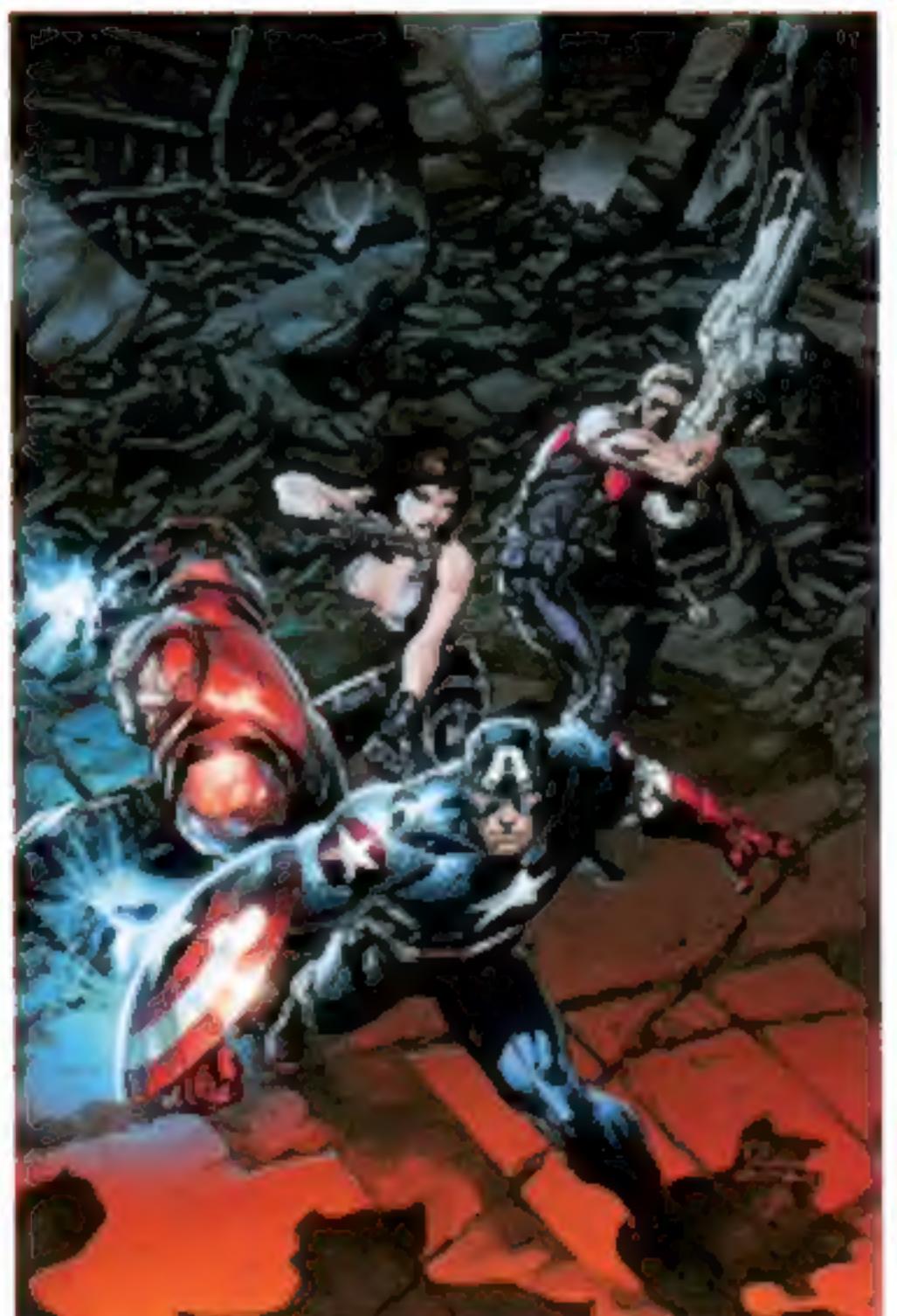


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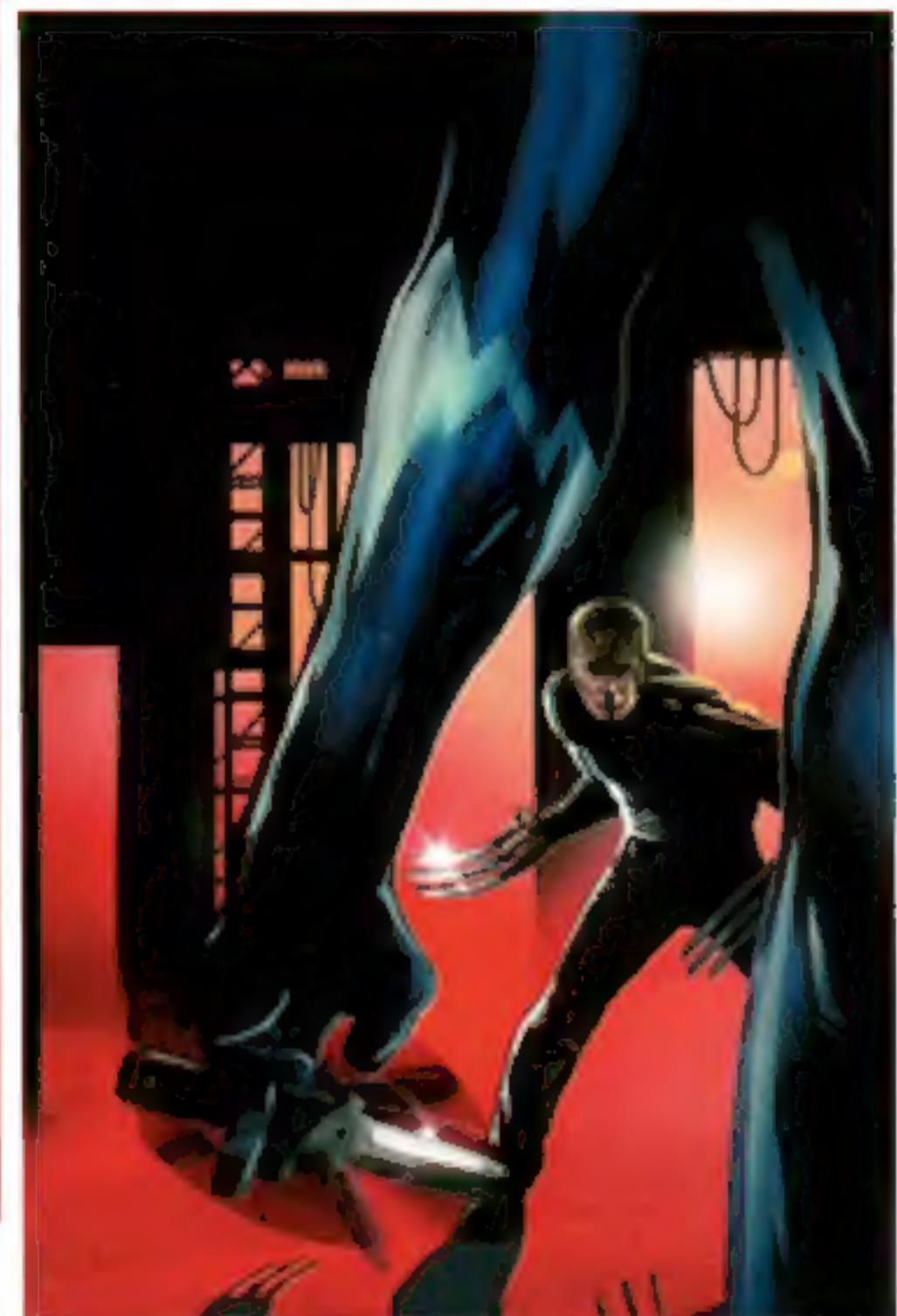
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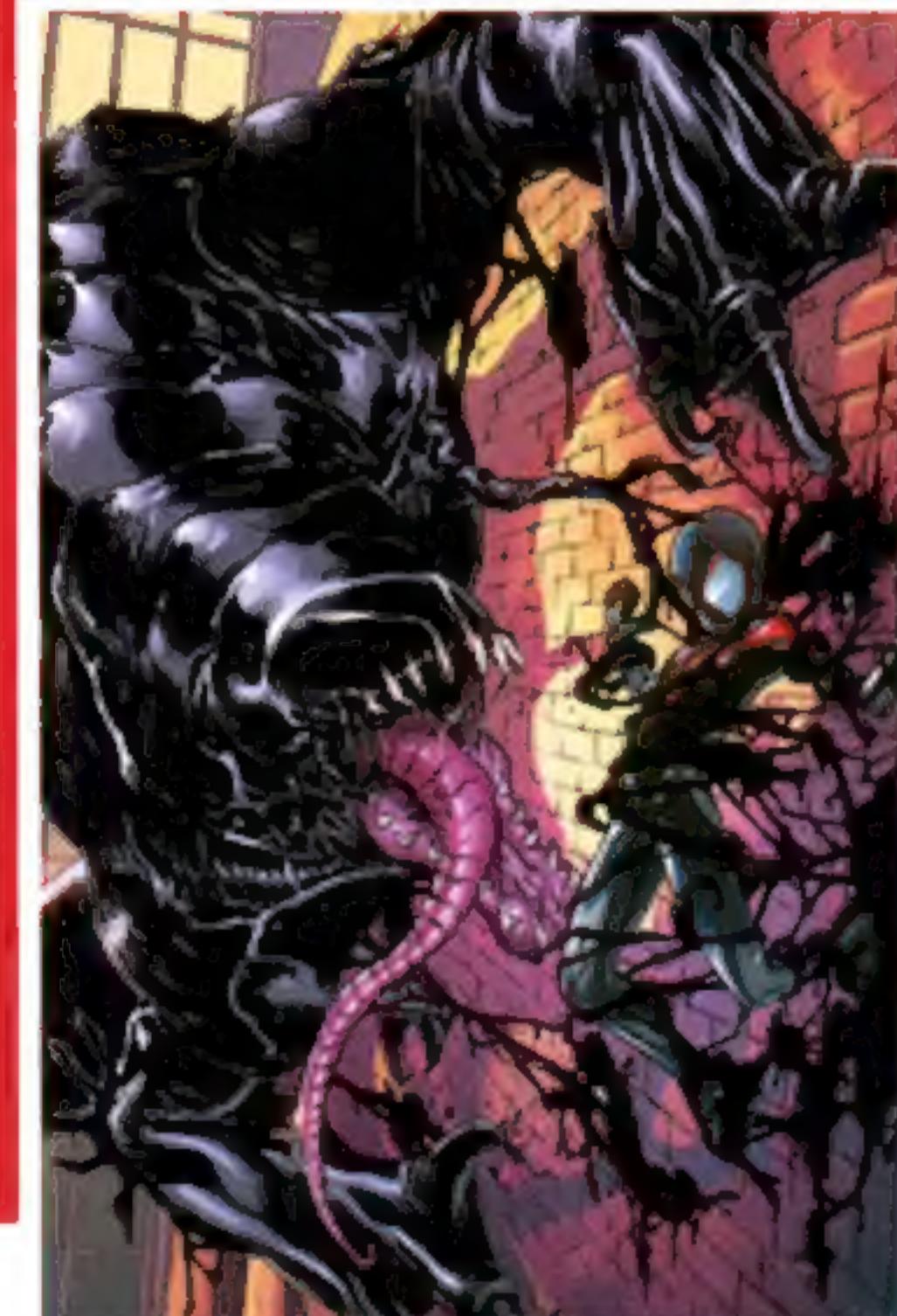
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